Volume 58

Issue 2

Dec 8

2022

the Innis Herald

The Innis Herald wishes to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on the land of Tkaronto.

INNIS HERALD MASTHEAD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
YASH KUMAR SINGHAL
Can be found lying face down in the snow

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
SAMANTHA "SAM" GUEVARA
Can be found at a concert show

JUNIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
MAYUMI RAMOS
Can be found chugging a $2.40 coffee at St. Mike's Cafe

MICHELLE WONG
Can be found at Robarts Library snacking

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR
RHEA GOSAIN
Can be found crying in the corner listening to Taylor Swift

ONLINE EDITOR & PODCAST PRODUCER
CATHERINE DUMÉ
Can be found Hart House's Arbor Room

JUNIOR ONLINE EDITOR
EMMA TRAN
Can be found huddled in a study carrel at Innis College

STEPHANIE LEE
Can be found at Toronto Reference Library Malding on Premiere Pro

JUNIOR PODCAST PRODUCER
MARTY HEWITT
Can be found at the Earth Sciences Library

HUIPENG LI
Can be found sipping a hot drink in one of the Robarts study rooms

SENIOR COPY EDITOR
KIRAN BASRA
Can be found killing time at the ROM

JUNIOR COPY EDITOR
YUJIN OH
Can be found in bed

MARGAUX YIU
Can be found perambulating central and east downtown

SENIOR LAYOUT EDITOR
LINDA CHEN
Can be found Innis College commuter lounge

JUNIOR LAYOUT EDITOR
JESSICA CHU
Can be found at the Innis cafe with some hot soup!

Cover Art by Lina Yan!

All work published in the Innis Herald, on the Innis Herald website, or on the Innis Herald Podcast is representative of the author or creator only. The work does not reflect the values and beliefs of the masthead or Innis College. The Innis Herald is committed to demonstrating the student voices and facilitating the exchange of ideas in a respectful, equitable, and inclusive environment

Heeelloo again Innis! Did you miss me?

Welcome to the second issue in Volume 58 of the Innis Herald!! This one has more articles, more new columns, more fun, more pizzazz, more chaos (and fewer mistakes).

Yeah, the last issue had some small errors, but as we at the Herald like to say, "It was just the first pancake :)" Now, get ready for the best plate of soft sugary sweetness you've ever laid your eyes on.

Oh ALSO, before I let you dive into the delicious stack of pancakes I've apparently decided to compare this paper to, we have some letters to open!

Dear Innis Herald,
Wow. You are absolutely amazing. Like literally the best paper on campus.
WOW.
–Realperson Notyash

Dear Realperson,
Thank you so much! We're glad you enjoyed the paper :)

Dear Herald,
Your paper smells REALLY good. The articles are nice too I guess.
Thanks.
–Anotherrealperson Notaweirdo

Hey Anotherrealperson!
Thanks?
–A slightly concerned but nevertheless extremely thankful EIC

We LOVED THE INNIS HERALD!! Your designs are so pretty omg. –The Mike

WE LOVE THE MIKE. You have some AWESOME articles!!! –The Innis Herald

Thank you so very much to all of you beautiful people out there who took the time to give our little paper a read! We've heard your compliments, your praise, and your applause. To all our lovely fans, we love you back. And to all our angry haters, we love you too:

Gracious Greetings,
My name is Jamie, I am a riveted reader of your pristine paper and I come to the esteemed exec email this night with a grievance of a gripe. Your poor product is lacking down clues for the crossword. It is an outrageous omission of audience amusement. I have scoured every link, image, and pixel on your wearisome webpage and yet I could not locate an entailed erratum of this errant error. I am now left sulking in my seat, unable to fill in the rigid rows that ridicule me with their blankness. I implore you to implement an appropriate amendment.
A felicitous farewell to you,
-Jamie Yi

Thank you, Jamie, for your wonderfully worded letter.
Reading your rib-tickling write-up was truly a delight. But to you, and every other Innisian who has so passionately expressed their disdain at the lack of down clues for the crossword last issue, all we have to say is we are sorry.
We are sorry, we overestimated you. We are sorry, you aren't better at solving crosswords. Our only fault was having faith, faith that the Innis community would rise up to this unique challenge and appreciate the intellectual stimulation. We believed in our hearts that you were smarter than this, smarter than the average crossword solver.
But alas, we were wrong. Fear not. We have heard your cries and complaints. On the next page, you will find the down clues you so desire.

With finals season nearly upon us, know this dear reader. The world (and your professors) will challenge you in new, unexpected ways. Your knowledge, your understanding, your ability to solve crosswords despite missing down clues will all be put to the test.
Dear Innisian, even if you are one insignificant inconvenience away from a complete breakdown, just remember: The leaves may have fallen, as the snowflakes now do, but that doesn't mean, your GPA will too.
We at the Innis Herald believe in you.

Your EIC,
Yash Kumar Singhal

PS: I think I should address the "Herald Heist" where someone took our ENTIRE STACK OF PAPERS from Innis residence- Hey Paper Pirate, we are so happy that you loved the paper that much!!! It's a massive compliment, thank you. But please leave some for the rest of Innis :)

PPS: Check out page 19 for a special gift!

V58E1 Crossword Down Clues (Happy now?)

1. Some shoe fasteners
2. "They have not your interests ___" –Samuel Seabury
3. Took to court
4. Lebanon in French
5. Garlic and oil sauce
6. Dix + dix
7. "Love to give" in Chinese
8. Russian filmmaker Tarkovsky
9. Star Wars princess
10. ICU hookups
11. Orange ride at Canada's Wonderland
12. Genetically modified dino of "Jurassic World"
13. Hard drives that use flash memory (abbr.)
15. Chair for your third vaccine dose?
23. Fly noises
27. When a marriage ends, according to vows
28. Online but scheduled, like a zoom call
30. Vowel cluster combined into one character in languages like Norwegian
32. Flat breakfast
33. Card game with a Spanish name
34. Compressed file extension
36. "To __ or not to __"
37. Sidewalk eatery
38. Key in a lot of shortcuts
41. Night times (abbr.)
42. Article in front of a vowel
43. Type of battery
44. Soviet spy org.
45. Informal affirmative response
47. Second person être
49. Character Blonsky in "She-Hulk"
51. Type of gun, with "15"
52. Aromatic molecule part
53. Injured by a Jedi
55. Response
59. "What's ___ the zoo?", children's book by Suzanne Buckingham Slade
60. McGregor who played Obi-Wan Kenobi, possessive
61. Swinton of "Doctor Strange"
62. Chemical with a double-bonded O
64. Sardine containers
65. "Hit me like ___ of bricks"
66. Nickname of Jim and Pam's daughter
68. Tuition aid for UofT students
70. Free (of)

THE PIGEON CHRONICLES FT. UofT PIGEONS

For the first time ever, the Innis Herald offers a glimpse into the daily lives of the UofT pigeons. Behold the thoughts, fears, hopes, dreams and desires of these spherical avian superstars...

"Oh, why must my shadow be so beautiful... yet so forlorn?"

He has no thoughts because HE ZOOOOOOMIN (despite being spherical)

"Greetings, it is I, a round, absolute unit, of a pigeon. No one dares disturb my sun-soaked slumber."

BONUS PIGEON (!!!)

Romeo and Juliet: Greatest love story known to man

"Greetings from yet another round, absolute unit, of a pigeon. "

"No one d-WHO DARES DISTURB MY SLUMBER?"

Romeo and Juliet: Juliet is a problem and bothers Romeo around the house

Accessibility and Advising

Catherine Dume
STUDENT LIFE

(Check out the online version of this article at theinnisherald.com for all the links and websites!)

Hey Innis! With midterms over, it is time, once again, to start dreading finals. Regardless if they are exams or ten-page essays, they suck the life out of us students and fill us with worry and crippling stress. For some, this intense period may cause procrastination or a mid-program crisis that puts dropping out of university on the table. For the many students with a disability, however, this period may end with an anxiety attack, seizures, and a lot of physical pain.

As a fourth-year student with a disability, I know Accessibility Services like the back of my hand. Let's just say I have a lot of advice to share for my fellow first years and anyone who is new to accessibility at U of T.

I hope this overview of services will convince you to take advantage of them so you'll feel more prepared to tackle your future final examinations with more confidence!

A few definitions & myth busting

"Accommodations" are not special treatment. Rather, they are simply tools to allow a student to participate in the classroom when they otherwise would not be able to. I know a lot of students who assume that their medical issue is not severe enough to be considered a disability. But "disability" doesn't always impact a person every waking moment. There will be good days and eventually bad days. And for those days, having an accommodation helps.

Register with Accessibility Services

If you feel that your disability is interfering with your ability to do well academically—or would appreciate a bit of help here and there, especially for your exams—I strongly suggest you register with Accessibility Services. They can provide accommodations specific to your disability.

In addition to peer note-taking, extensions, reserved seating, and other in-class accommodations, they also help provide accommodations for your examinations! These may include: extra time, breaks, private rooms for exams, extensions for essays, and rescheduling to avoid having two exams on the same day.

To register with accessibility services, here is the three-step process:
(1) Collect your medical information. Download and complete the Certificate of Disability (on the studentlife.utoronto.ca website). Have a doctor sign the document.
(2) Fill out the Student Intake Form.
(3) Schedule and attend your intake appointment with your new accessibility advisor. Before your meeting, reflect on how your disability impacts your academics.

It will take time to apply, especially during the registration period before exams, so register as soon as possible! To register you can check the Accessibility Services registration page, or scan the QR code for a YouTube video breaking down all of the steps in more detail.

If you have any questions, sign up for a Peer Advisor Drop-In Session, send them an email at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca, give them a call at 416-978-8060, or visit their office in person at 455 Spadina Avenue.

Once you have your Letter of Accommodation, don't forget to follow up on the services:

(1) Register for exam accommodations

First, sign into the Accessibility Services Portal where you have access to your accommodation letters, volunteer note-takers' notes, and, most importantly, midterm and final exam registration. Double check with the Accessibility Service portal or office for the registration deadline for next term's midterm and finals. If you miss that deadline, there is an alternate registration form. Just note: those who register late are not guaranteed to get their accommodations. If that happens get in touch with your accessibility advisor and speak to your professors to discuss potential emergency accommodations.

(2) Attend a study session

Accessibility Services host a variety of programs for their registered students. Their Group Learning Strategy Sessions give you tips and techniques to study more effectively and offer you a study group to keep you motivated while preventing burnout.

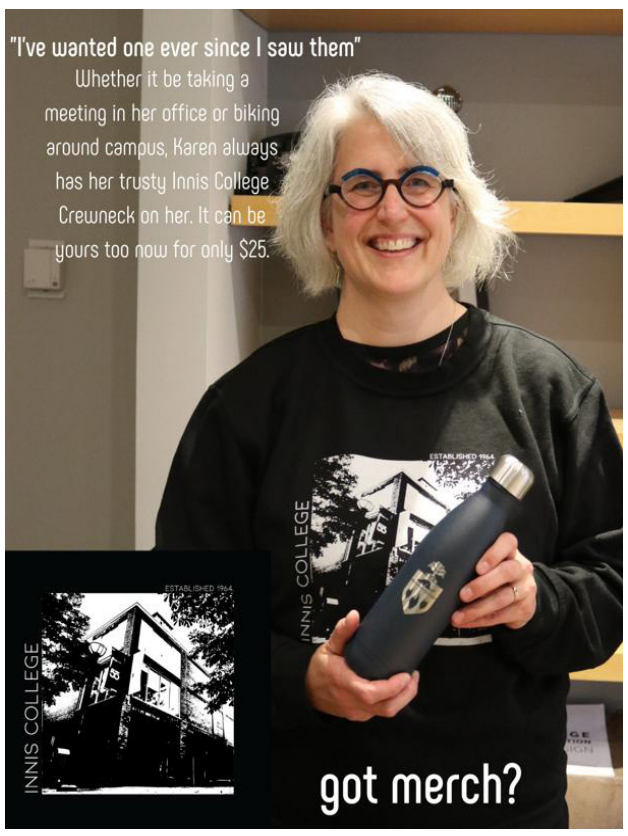
(3) Attend Virtual Accountability Check-ins

Held twice a week, Virtual Accountability Check-ins encourage you to remain grounded in your studies, provide you focus for your tasks and upcoming assessments, and give you a safe space to be real about what you are going through.

Overall, this information is just the tip of the iceberg. Accessibility Services offers more than providing accommodations and ensuring an accessible experience at UTSG; they also do their best to serve you and set you up for academic and career success.

If you are not yet registered, there is still time for applications for the next term!

Definitely check-out their various programs. I wish you all the best on your finals!


"I've wanted one ever since I saw them"
Whether it be taking a meeting in her office or biking around campus, Karen always has her trusty Innis College Crewneck on her. It can be yours too now for only $25.
INNIS COLLEGE
ESTABLISHED 1964
got merch?

HEY YOU! YES, YOU!

Do you have a fun anecdote, love confession, or angry rant you'd like to share? Did your roommate almost burn down the house? Did you see something interesting on campus? Or do you have an incredible racoon obsession and want to express your love for the fuzzy friend-shaped fauna? If so, TELL US ABOUT IT!

Shower us in praise or give us some not-so-constructive criticism. Tell us what else you want to see in the Herald, or even what you want us to avoid. You can even ask us for advice (but don't expect a sincere response).
We are very bored. Please write to us.
Deliver letters to room 107 at Innis College or send electronic letters (aka emails) to exec.herald@gmail.com

Statement of Support: In Solidarity of Strikes

Eli Easton
STUDENT LIFE / OPINION

When it comes to budget cuts from Doug Ford's elitist Conservative government, education has always been at the top of their list.

Last August, the contracts of 55,000 education workers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) expired. This body of workers, consisting of administration staff, early childhood educators, librarians, and custodians make an average of $39,000 per year. For a decade, CUPE workers have been victims of frozen wages, resulting in extremely disproportionate pay compared to other public sector occupations. With the decline in working conditions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the subsequent spike in inflation, it is extremely reasonable to give these essential workers a pay increase in their new contracts.

In fact, with the re-election of a Conservative majority into Ontario's Parliament last summer, one of the top concerns for voters was the rising cost of living. Fueled largely by corporate greed, every single working-class individual in Ontario has felt the impact of inflation. As time progresses and inflation worsens while wages stay frozen, those wages pay for less and less than they once did, resulting in what is essentially an annual pay cut.

This increasingly dire condition of the economy has led to 96.5% of CUPE members voting in favor of collective action. With an 83% turnout, CUPE members have shown almost unanimously how fed up they are with Ford's cost-cutting policies. In conjunction with this consensus, CUPE demanded from the government an 11.7% salary increase over four years for **all** members, insisting that an increase in wages across the board will build solidarity within the union.

Despite running a $2.1 billion surplus from the previous fiscal year, Doug Ford and his Minister of Education Steven Leece decided to forgo good faith bargaining and instead flexed their authoritarian muscles. What resulted was the Tories passing Bill 28, called the *Keeping Students in Class Act*, a hilariously ironic name after one remembers how the Conservatives utterly failed to handle school attendance and safety during the peaks of COVID-19. This bill, aptly coined the "nuclear option," declared strike action **illegal** while simultaneously imposing a four-year contract onto CUPE workers. This contract consists of a 2.5% annual increase for the lowest-paid workers and a 1.5% increase for those making over $43,000 per year. On top of this, the bill states that any strike action done by CUPE will result in a $500,000 fine for the union and a $4000 fine for every individual member, **per day**. Remember, these workers make $39,000 per year before taxes!

Bill 28 grossly violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is an insult to the already exploited education workers, as well as a threat against **any** union that dares try to improve the pay and working conditions of its members. Yet, it was passed into law due to the notwithstanding clause, a loophole baked into Section 33 of the Charter which allows provincial legislatures to override certain portions of the Charter for five years.

Nevertheless, Doug Ford's pathetic attempt at curtailing strike action imploded as workers across Ontario were galvanized to stand with CUPE in solidarity. CUPE members, despite the threats, walked off the job for a two-day strike to demonstrate resentment against Ford's attacks on fundamental labour rights. Moreover, the Ontario Federation of Labour, justifiably threatened by the careless use of Bill 28, gave Doug Ford a wake-up call and unanimously voted to launch an indefinite general strike.

Ford, realizing that he was barreling toward the largest labour demonstrations since the 1990s, quickly reversed course by repealing Bill 28, removing the fine, and conceding to bargain a contract.

The success of this strike cannot be overstated. Ontarians and unions joined in solidarity to successfully oppose Doug Ford's unacceptable threat against fundamental labour rights. Through demonstration, workers preserved the means to combat the tyrannic nature of the workplace within an increasingly unequal society. The existential threat of Bill 28 showed workers that, when faced with significant authoritarian strong-arming over their labour rights, stiffening their position and uniting collectively along the picket line is the only way to combat oppression.

I support education workers.
TORONTO EDUCATION WORKERS
NO CUTS TO EDUCATION
CUTS HURT KIDS
POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
TAKE A STAND
Fighting for STUDENT SUCCESS AND GOOD JOBS

Credit: Carlos Osorio/CBC

Who You Gonna Call? Probably not the RCMP

Bob Gillespie
POLITICS / OPINION

This summer, the Cullen Commission released its final report into money laundering in British Columbia. The key finding? Money laundering is everywhere in the province, but the federal government — whose job it is to detect and eliminate financial crime — is not. Even as billions of dollars are laundered through the province, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is nowhere to be seen. A report in 2019 found that of the 6800 RCMP officers in the province, only five were devoted to investigating financial crimes. All five of the Mounties had their salaries paid for by the provincial government, which was paying for 26.

The other 6795 Mounties were conducting traffic enforcement on provincial highways, responding to break-ins in Burnaby, or investigating assaults in downtown Nanaimo. Despite being one of Canada's national symbols, the Mounties increasingly function as a local constabulary — and not a particularly effective one. Report after report has detailed the RCMP's failure to conduct basic investigations, communicate with other law enforcement agencies, or weed out corruption. As the RCMP struggles with recruitment and retention, it has become increasingly impossible for the agency to fulfill its unusually broad mandate for federal and local policing, maintain federal crime labs and police colleges, and administer services like the Canadian Firearms Program. In the meantime, the short-staffed RCMP puts officers in subsidized "contract policing" agreements that enable Mounties to act as local police officers in rural Saskatchewan and Metro Vancouver, at the expense of the federal duties that should make up the core of its duties.

Why?

In 1928, Canada's Mounties were on the decline. The original North-West Mounted Police had been folded into the Dominion Police eight years earlier, forming the RCMP and creating a strange hybrid of an agency with paramilitary discipline and a local policing posture but with a specialized federal law enforcement mandate. Eager to get Mounties back into communities, the federal government began offering provinces a sweetheart deal: any province which outsourced policing to the RCMP would have a portion of its policing costs bankrolled by Ottawa. In the years that followed the force expanded dramatically. By 1950, only three provinces continued to maintain provincial police services: Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Quebec.

The program backfired. Instead of enabling the expansion of the RCMP at little cost, a 2020 briefing to then-Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair explained that the contract policing program was a drain on federal resources, the RCMP could neither recruit nor train enough officers to fill its contract demands, and in the meantime, "federal policing responsibilities have been and are being eroded to meet contract demands." Because RCMP contracts require the force to satisfy an acceptable minimum number of officers in each detachment at all times, the RCMP has no choice but to prioritize its contracts over its mandate.

Mounties are among the lowest-paid police officers in Canada, and few candidates seem to be interested in putting up with low pay for the work environment: officers from other agencies absorbed by the force complain of a toxic, paramilitary culture; employees report being bullied and harassed for reporting misconduct; and the force has spent millions of dollars unsuccessfully fighting lawsuits brought by employees over its workplace culture. What candidates the RCMP can find all go through one facility in Regina, Saskatchewan, where they learn from a curriculum geared towards frontline policing in rural communities. Countless reports have cited a lack of quality training in systematic racism and investigative tactics as the cause of the federal agency's inability to maintain even basic investigative standards, but RCMP cadets continue to learn more about marching than they do indigenous policing or criminal investigations.

Credit: bornin54

Although graduating Mounties can shortlist a handful of desired postings across the country, officers are ultimately deployed on the whims of the RCMP bureaucracy, decisions that are based less on skill and more on need. One anonymous Mountie interviewed by Maclean's underscored the consequence: officers "[come] out of the north, [having] just spent two years in one of the communities, and [are] suddenly in the drug section or the market enforcement team or something, but [with] no particular skills to work in those settings . . . They're probably not equipped to [write warrants or reports]. And so they're . . . just going to do whatever they can to get out of doing it."

There seems to be no energy within the RCMP for positive change. Although former commissioner Bob Paulson identified retention as a concern, Mounties who leave the job report having no exit interview. And under Paulson's leadership, frontline officers were denied access to carbine rifles over concerns that the weapons would militarize the force. Instead, three members of his paramilitary died in a firefight with a man using a carbine rifle. They had been armed only with handguns engraved with the RCMP logo.

Over the past few years, lawsuits, scandals, and a massacre that left 21 people and a beloved Mountie dead have tarnished the image of the force for many. But it may not be enough to provoke meaningful change. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the force bounced from scandal to scandal: a corrupt Mountie was exposed not by police investigation but by CBC journalists, the agency earned international rebuke from an American judge who accused the force of conducting smear campaigns against Indigenous activists, and the force provided inaccurate tips to U. S. law enforcement that led to the detention and torture of a Syrian-Canadian engineer. Then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed the force's first civilian commissioner, who implemented a handful of minor reforms before retiring. His successors, all of them career Mounties, have carried few of his projects forward.

Today, the focus of reformers is less on culture and more on structure; all-party committees in Ottawa and Victoria have both recommended removing Mounties from communities, municipalities across the country are either considering or already developing their own police forces to replace the Mounties, and when Marco Mendicino took over the public safety file this year, a part of his mandate was to review the force's role in local policing. But closing the contract policing program would be enormously costly, and the RCMP and those around them seem keen on fighting the closure

every step of the way. The City of Surrey, which is in the process of establishing its own municipal police service, has had to do battle against retired RCMP leaders, astroturfed "citizen campaigns" led by RCMP union lawyers, and jaw-dropping stunts: last year, the RCMP union tried to trademark names like "Surrey Police Department" and "Surrey Police Union."

Removing contract policing from the Mounties' mandate, if it happens, won't come close to fixing the myriad problems with the force. But it will put it into a better position, focusing the force, its training, and its culture on federal law enforcement. Already, developments in the force's federal policing program seem promising. This year, Mountie leadership decided to "[play] with the DNA" of the force, hiring non-police specialists to conduct investigations into financial crime and cybercrime. The detectives have limited police powers and work closely alongside police officers. One high-ranking Mountie interviewed by CBC News said that in 15 years, "you may very easily have a civilian investigator leading the investigative team supplemented by [police officers]."

In the meantime, poorly-equipped Mounties continue to fan out across Canadian cities, prairies, forests, and tundras. Laundered money continues to flow through British Columbia's economy. And the number of Canadians and Mounties alike who have been failed by our national institution continues to grow.

The Hottest Take of 1793

Zed Hoffman-Weldon
POLITICS / OPINION

Credit: Annie Spratt

The day Queen Elizabeth died, everyone I knew started streaming *The Queen is Dead*. My friends' jubilation at the death of the Queen was part of a broader revaluation of her legacy. This revaluation was not happening in established anglophone media. No one expected British or Canadian news to produce anything other than a hagiography of the queen. In the United States, *The New York Times* recently published an article detailing how the fascist Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, wears Armani; you can imagine the tone of coverage around the Queen's death.

The public revaluation of the Monarchy's legacy after the Queen's death was the latest instance of a broader rejection of colonial institutions. This critique has roots in activist academia, but it was best applied to the Monarchy by Barbados when they removed Queen Elizabeth as head of state. Discussing the Queen's involvement and complicity in colonialism is important, but it's not what I intend to do here.

In discussions of the monarchy, even among ostensible progressives, something tends to get lost. Everyone agrees in the abstract that hereditary feudal privilege is antidemocratic; but when it comes to talking about the Queen, excuses are made for why she was different. Certainly, very few people believe that the existence of the monarchy reflects poorly on British democracy. Somehow, both the British public and external observers have convinced themselves that democracy is completely unaffected by the existence of said antidemocratic privilege. I'm going to outline why this is, academically speaking, utter horseshit, and then I'm going to show why the most common response to this argument is divorced from reality.

"Democratic values" is a jargon term in democratic theory that means "things you need for your democracy to work properly." While most democratic theorists think that democracy means more than just free and fair elections, even taking this "thin" definition of democracy implies some other commitments. For example, it would be wrong to call an election "free and fair" if no information about the candidates were available beforehand. So transparency in elections is a democratic value.

A more substantive democratic value is social equality. Inequality is fundamentally corrosive to democracy; firstly, because it creates a class of people who have greater influence over politics than others (when was the last time you paid for a lobbyist?). Secondly, because inequality gives one group greater influence over the lives of others, which necessarily influences their behaviour. And thirdly, because large social inequalities represent a failure of democratic accountability in the economy. It goes almost without saying that social equality is essentially impossible if a small group of people are elevated over all others at birth. The monarchy is a small group that is elevated over all others at birth; both due to their position in a cultural hierarchy, and because they possess an extremely large amount of private wealth, land, and capital. Anyone who claims to support both democracy and the monarchy is speaking out of both sides of their mouth.

A common objection to this sort of argument is that it's too abstract. Objectors may agree that social inequality is a problem, or even dislike the Monarchy, but they argue that this critique doesn't identify any concrete ways in which the Royals actually have influence over the democratic process. The Queen was famously tight-lipped about politics, and there seems to be no evidence that she had a substantive impact on the day-in, day-out workings of democracy; or at least, no more impact than any other thought-leader.

The notion that the Queen did not substantively influence politics is completely false. In fact, the Queen used a legal process called Queen's consent to change the text of over 1,000 bills going through parliament during her time as Monarch. A *Guardian* investigation found that the Royals routinely used Queen's consent to influence the text of bills as they were being made, in particular bills that would adversely impact their fortune. The Queen, for example, cannot be prosecuted for a hate crime.

A rejoinder is that this is some kind of quirk of legal process, a loophole that can be closed. That is also a mistake. In fact, there are a number of times in which parliaments have wished to contravene the Queen's consent, but have been unable to, because doing so would provoke a constitutional crisis; further jeopardizing both the bill and the government. "Quirks of legal process" like Queen's consent are entrenched and difficult to change *as a direct result* of the monarchy's influence.

The prospects for turning the Monarchy into a genuinely democratic institution are near zero, but there is an alternative. Britain could abolish the monarchy, and expropriate the Crown lands. Canada could follow Barbados's example by removing King Charles as its head of state. It was never Westminster who we should have followed for our democracy—it was *la Place de la Révolution*.

The Next Step for Environmentalism: A Return to Pragmatism

Kyle Newcombe
SCIENCE & TECH

As a young person today with only a passing interest in current events and world news, it's hard not to be aware of how quickly the outlook for the future of our environment is deteriorating. The headlines are both alarming in frequency and vast in scope; the glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, average temperatures are up, and natural disasters are more frequent and severe. It's quite concerning to realize that as a collective, we humans still have not figured out what specifically to focus on and how to solve those problems.

For reasons unbeknownst to me, the latest solution to climate change seems to be defacing famous artwork with soup. On October 14, two protesters from viral group Just Stop Oil threw tomato soup on Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, then promptly glued their hands to the wall. Supposedly, this was an effort to raise awareness of genuinely important issues, such as fossil fuel subsidies and the cost of living, but most casual coverage of the protest on social media wasn't focused on those. Rather, the video of the soup-throwing went viral just for how absurd it was.

Thankfully, underneath the ridiculous soup-throwing and media sensationalism, environmental science is a very structured field with troves of research and data publicly accessible, with more being collected each day. This is why I'm suggesting a new path for the environmental movement: a return to pragmatism. When it comes to an issue as serious and far-reaching as climate change, what's really needed is a data-driven, logical, and unified approach.

As an illustration of "losing of the script," energy is a great example. It's all the talk these days as winter approaches and the war in Ukraine continues; the European economy has begun to cripple under the pressures of sanctions against Russia, uncertainty in the oil markets, and energy prices that have skyrocketed due to scant supply. Given all this, the question has to be asked: why does Europe rely so heavily on dirty Russian fossil fuels to begin with?

The answer lies in the continued refusal of a large contingent of the environmental movement to look at empirical evidence. For decades, the prevalence of nuclear energy in particular has been declining in Europe and elsewhere as countries like Germany closed many of their nuclear power plants in favour of supposedly "greener" alternatives. Even everyone's favourite climate activist, Greta Thunberg, is involved; in July of this year she said "no amount of lobbyism and greenwashing will ever make [nuclear] green" and called nuclear energy a "false solution."

Meanwhile, according to the United States government, "nuclear is a zero-emission clean energy source." The "zero emission" label specifically refers to emissions from operations, but even including total net emissions from all related processes, nuclear energy produces a similar amount of emissions compared to wind energy and as low as one third as much compared to solar.

Wind and solar are both commonly cited as superior alternatives to nuclear energy, but neither is universally better. Solar panels require many mining-intensive minerals such as lead, copper, and nickel, and both wind and solar are fundamentally intermittent power sources that are only viable in certain geographies. To have a 100% wind and solar grid you would therefore need massive battery storage capability, which just exacerbates the minerals problem.

Nuclear, by contrast, marginally requires only uranium and water, and it runs 24/7 in all weather conditions. In addition, uranium is a very dense energy source, meaning that only modest amounts are needed during the fission process, and the volume of waste is small relative to the amount of energy it produces.

These facts are what makes the widespread, often casual dismissal of nuclear power as a viable energy solution so confusing—especially since the direct alternatives being chosen are so obviously much worse than nuclear. In Germany, where Thunberg and others have long opposed nuclear power, coal-fired power plants are back in operation because of the aforementioned energy supply crunch. When environmentalists are indirectly advocating for coal, which emits up to 273 times more pollution than nuclear per unit of electricity, you know that something needs to change.

It is important to acknowledge that, while far better than coal, nuclear power isn't perfect either: a tremendous amount of water is used, radioactive waste produced can be harmful for up to one million years, and of course severe nuclear accidents are a worrisome possibility. Over time, these drawbacks lessen as new plants become more efficient, permanent nuclear waste storage facilities are built, and more redundancy is built into power plant systems.

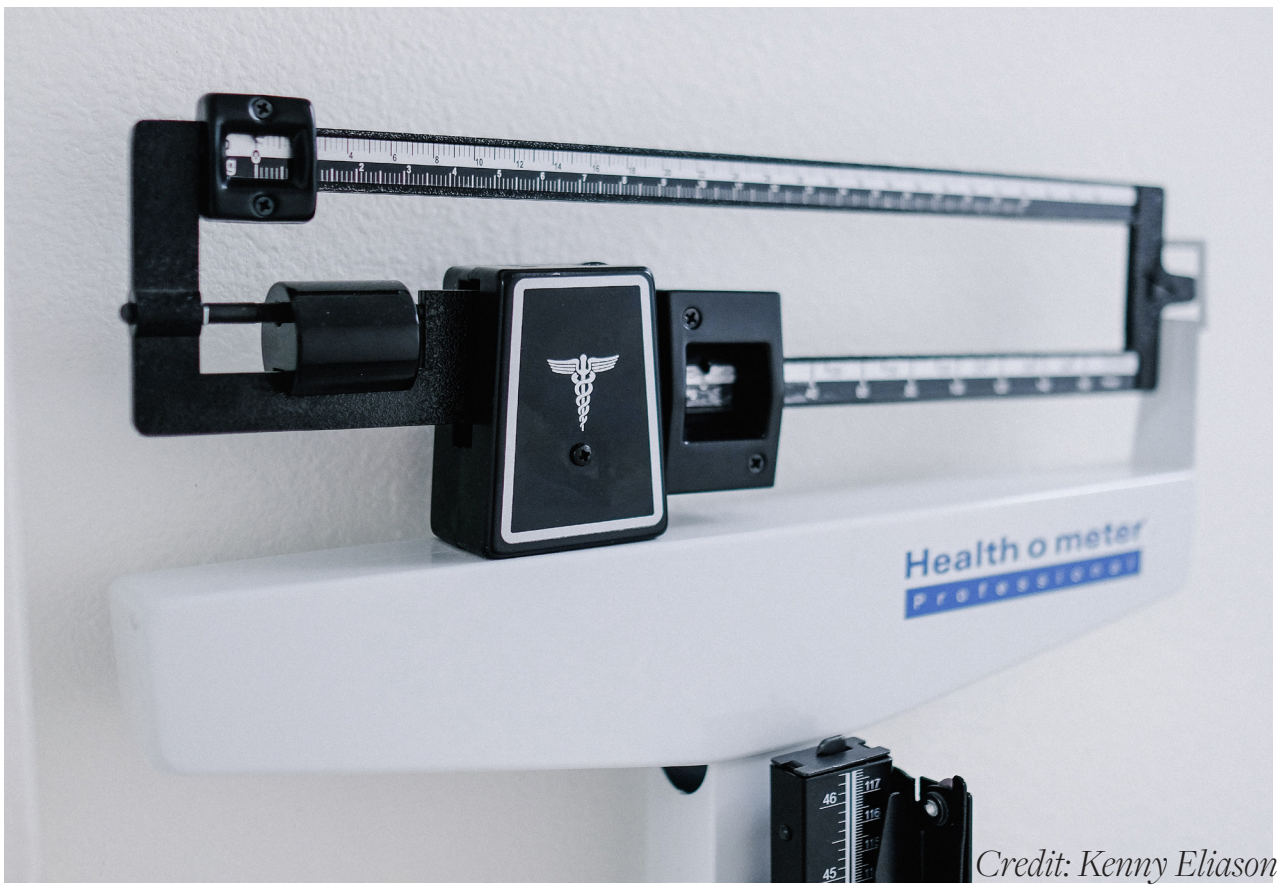
Thankfully, energy policy is trending in the right direction. Remember Greta Thunberg's anti-nuclear quotes? Those were in response to a European Parliament vote to classify investments in nuclear energy plants as "environmentally sustainable." Despite Thunberg's involvement, the reclassification went through, as members see the need for cleaner energy sources only increasing alongside our current climate and geopolitical instability. Even Thunberg changed her tune and called the turning off of nuclear plants in Germany in favour of coal "a mistake."

As with any existential problem, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to climate change but there are a few concrete steps available. Virtue signaling for likes online has to stop, emotional decision making and sensationalism must be limited, and the following question must be asked again and again: what does the data say? I believe that if we can answer that question with any reasonable proficiency, then we are already a step ahead when it comes to protecting our future.

The Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, which the Government of Ontario is looking to extend the life of as energy security worsens around the world. Credit: Ontario Power Generation.

Anti-Fatness Is So Much Bigger Than Taylor Swift: A Comment On Performative Activism

Mira Ghosh
PERSONAL ESSAY



Credit: Kenny Eliason

CONTENT WARNING: This article contains detailed descriptions of anti-fat bigotry, as well as mentions of sexual assault.

Taylor Swift's music video for her song "Anti-Hero" graced my TikTok 'For You' page several times this month with creators upset at a scene in which Taylor steps on a scale and sees the word "fat" in big bold letters. The word has since been removed from her video after the backlash.

Regardless of your opinion on the video, the tsunami of people crying out that Taylor was fat-phobic and still remaining silent on anti-fat bias in every other context is disheartening. Especially in the social media age, performative activism is a massive problem in the fight for justice. Still, I was caught by surprise, especially since I had just finished reading Aubrey Gordon's book What *We Don't Talk About When We Talk About Fat*.

Anti-fat bias isn't a new topic to most. You may see stories of fat people being excluded from spaces, or hear activists discuss misrepresentation in the media. It's true that fat people are often the butt of the joke or their plotlines in stories are entirely about their fatness. In the news, fat people can be seen represented as headless bodies—warnings—for thin people. A growing discussion has also begun on the lack of plus-size clothing options, where in 2018 plus-sized people only had access to 2.3% of the clothing thin people could access. Yet the systemic discrimination of fat people goes beyond what usually shows up on social media.

Fat people face a minefield of anti-fat sentiments each time they seek healthcare. Despite weight being a wholly inaccurate measure of health that is based on a racially-biased BMI system, anti-fatness is often cloaked in concern for the well-being of fat people. Even if you truly believe that being thin is equivalent to being healthy, 95% of people who attempt to lose weight through dieting gain it back within a few years and body shaming actually makes people gain weight, not lose it.

Medical fat-bias is an issue that starts with medical students who show high anti-fat bias and which trickles down to result in atrocious healthcare for fat people. It's common for fat people to be misdiagnosed because their concerns are, by default, attributed to their weight and they are prescribed weight loss as a universal treatment. Drugs are also not always tested on fat people. Plan B, for example, loses effectiveness if you're more than 165 pounds. Prescription diet drugs are pushed to the market and prescribed to fat people before they've been fully tested despite causing life-threatening problems like heart failure. Bad health care for fat people unfortunately also means they go to the doctor less often, largely because of the discrimination they face. Not going to the doctor leads to more undiagnosed and untreated medical issues.

Fat people also experience unique types of abuse. Fatcalling, which is verbal abuse (usually insults) shouted at fat people in public, is an unfortunate shared experience for a lot of fat people. They are also less likely to be believed when they speak up about sexual assault, often rooted in the belief that no one would ever want to be with a fat person and therefore they can't possibly have been assaulted. There are several terms related to the sexual assault of fat people, particularly around fraternity culture, such as 'hogging,' 'pig roast', and 'rodeo.' (Content warning: looking up these terms may be triggering.)

Discrimination against fat people is still legal in a lot of US states. Fat people can be denied housing, employment, a seat at a restaurant, a hotel room, a seat on a plane, and more simply because they are fat.

If you haven't heard much about anti-fatness you could be forgiven for thinking that most of the issues were internal, that people *feel* insecure, because the discussion around fat bias has shifted to being more about internal self esteem. Talking about discrimination like it's a self-esteem issue dismisses the experiences of fat people. This isn't about body image. It's not about body positivity. It's certainly not about Taylor Swift daring to use the word "fat" in a video. It's about the systemic oppression of fat people. It's about the real consequences of widespread anti-fatness. If you want to help work towards body justice, turn your attention to the issues that matter.

Looking for a next-step? I can't recommend Aubrey Gordon's work enough. She has a thorough reading list on her website if you're interested in reading beyond her work.

If you or someone you know has been affected by an eating disorder, you can go to www.nedic.com (National Eating Disorder Information Centre) for live chat services, or register for free, group-based support at Sheena's Place.

For services and resources regarding feeling unsafe while on campus, contact Community Safety Office: 416-978-1485
For more information and peer support, you can contact Innis Pears: innispears@gmail.com

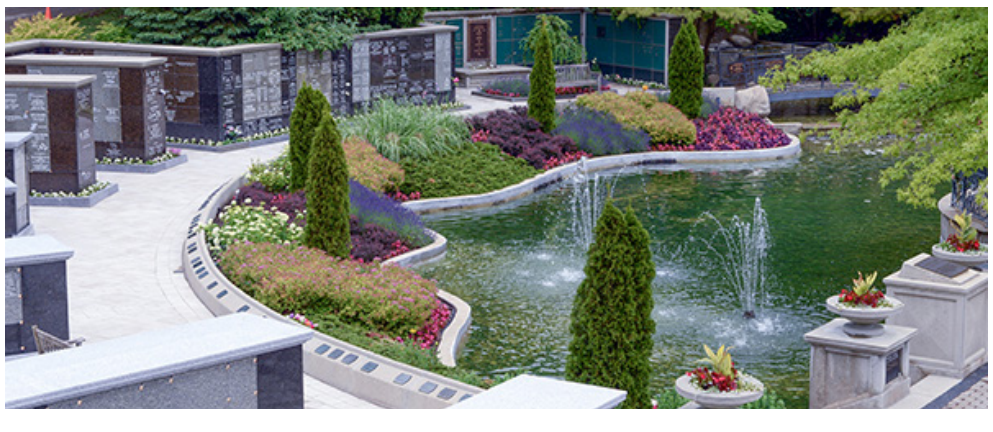
SIX IN THE 6IX

Kiran Basra
ARTS AND CULTURE

While I firmly believe that Toronto is the best city in the world, I'm not going to lie to you and tell you that Toronto is the most *interesting* city in the entire world. Especially once you leave the downtown core, the tourist attractions get fewer and farther between. It's true that nothing at all happens in Vaughan. But if you look, you'll quickly find that there are some pretty great things to do north of Bloor.

For the history buff: Mount Pleasant Cemetery

Opened in 1876, this was the first cemetery in Toronto to serve people who were not Anglican or Roman Catholic, meaning that you can find the first Jewish and Chinese Torontonians buried in its massive complex, along with former prime ministers and famous musicians. The cemetery is full of fountains and monuments, rare trees, and beautiful gardens. Their paths for jogging and walking are excellently maintained and very safe. Every time I've wandered through there, I've found something different. Even better — you're right by midtown Yonge St, which always has a freshly-opened restaurant to try.

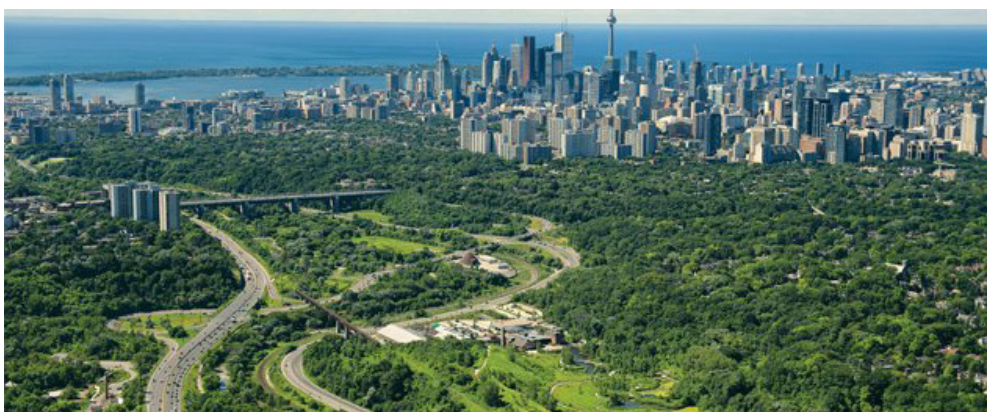


For your inner child: Ontario Science Centre

Does going to a museum sound like the most boring thing to do with your Saturday afternoon? Then you've never been to this museum. The Science Centre is fully interactive, and you won't be able to resist the urge to play like a little kid while you're there. Stare at the Rube Goldberg machine, activate a black hole simulator, climb a rock wall, see an elephant's heart, stand beside a tornado, make your hair stand on end, and walk through a miniature rainforest. Check out their IMAX screen if you have a little bit of extra money — their documentaries on space and the ocean are unforgettable.

For the broke student: Linus Park

This park is unofficially called Crestview, for its view of the Toronto skyline, which is one of the best in the entire city. More entertaining, though, is the massive hill at the middle school right next to it, steep and treeless and my favourite place for sledding. Forget Blue Mountain or any other fancy skiing hills — all you need is an old cardboard box and you'll have an amazing time tobogganing. Afterwards, check out the nearby Peanut Plaza for an excellent affordable Asian grocery store, to stock up on all the snacks you've missed.

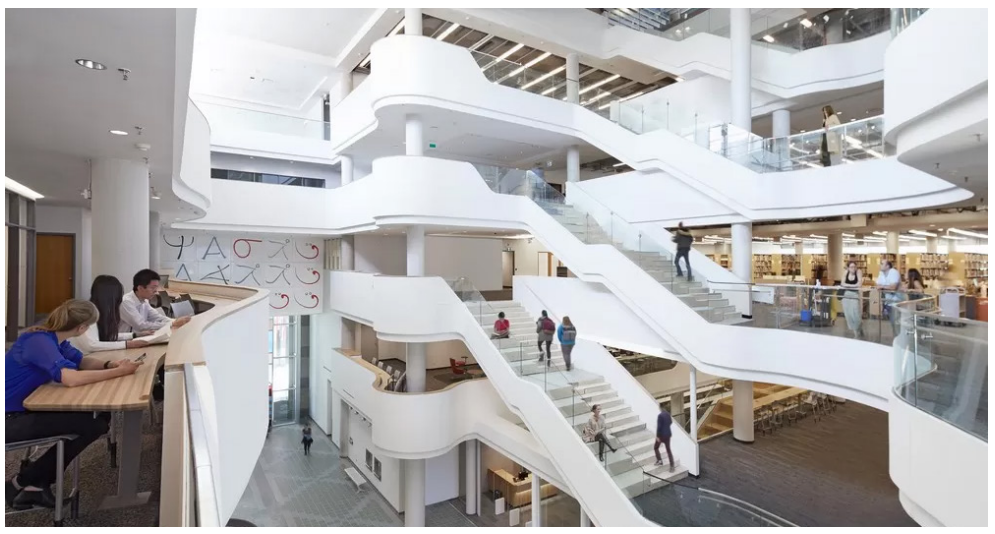


For the nature lover: the ravine system

The largest ravine system in any city in the world, Toronto's best kept secret is the 110 square kilometres of largely undeveloped urban wilderness that weave through it, if you know where to look. Full of forests, streams, wetlands, and the occasional beach, you can explore this for years and not see all of it. Follow the hydro corridor down the city or check out the many bike and walking paths that weave in and out. You'll find your favourite ravine on your own, but get started at the one just behind Maxome Park. Just watch out for deer — and the occasional fox.

For the creative: North York Central Library

If you always talk about how you should read more but can never get around to it, the freshly-renovated North York Central Library has 6 floors full of all the books you could want. The library boasts a teen section full of the latest YA, sheet music, cabinets of DVDs, nonfiction on crafts and cooking, comics, and an excellent foreign-language collection. Their best attraction, though, is their Fabrication Studio, where you can access sewing machines, 3D printers, a button maker, and a vinyl cutter, for no more than the cost of the materials you use. Or you can just borrow their video game consoles and play Super Smash Bros. Check out Mel Lastman Square next door, for excellent community programming, including live music in the summer and a skating rink.



For your cottagecore fantasies: Black Creek Pioneer Village

Pioneer Village is a historical re-enactment of an 1860s town in Southern Ontario, complete with old houses and historical artifacts, people in period dress, and a petting zoo full of rare and heritage breed animals. If they still have maple candy at the gift shop, buy some — I had it when I was seven and still think about it every day. Since you're in the neighbourhood, visit the Black Creek Community Farm, and then take the subway south to Downsview Park, where you can see Indigenous art, as well as tanks and fighter planes from World War II.

Taste Test Time: Bubble Tea Edition!

Michelle Wong
ARTS AND CULTURE

With all the new bubble tea shops downtown, which one serves the best, classic milk tea paired with the tapioca everyone knows and loves? For this taste test, three bubble tea shops that are not as well known have been selected with the hopes of introducing somewhere new to everyone: The Alley, the Baroness, and ICHA Tea. Deciding to stray away from shops like Gong Cha, Chatime, and CoCo, hopefully you can find your new go-to place through this taste test! All drinks tried in this article are made with no ice and half sugar to ensure that the drink is not watered down.

Starting off, The Alley! The location that I went to was 382 Yonge St Unit 1, Toronto, ON M5B 1S9 (near College station), and just a quick thought on the interior, it was really cozy, clean, and simple. Definitely a place to go if you're meeting up with a friend or want somewhere quiet to do some work. I ordered the regular size Royal No.9 Milk Tea with tapioca which cost an extra $0.70, coming to a total of $7.29 after tax. The tea tasted as if it was a type of Ceylon tea, with a somewhat fruity taste that one might enjoy if they enjoy drinking Earl Grey. It didn't have a particularly strong tea flavour and the milkiness was mild. The tapioca was well-cooked and chewy and worked well with the milk tea. However, $7.29 for a regular size isn't necessarily cheap in my opinion and it does leave behind some sort of fruity aftertaste. Although, I would go back to try their other drinks because they do have a lot of interesting choices and I want to try the grass jelly.

The next place that I went to was the Baroness (421 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M5B 1T1), which was across the street from The Alley. The interior was nice and they had swing seats at a table for you to sit and enjoy. According to Google, it closes at 12:30 am, so it's definitely a place to go to get your late-night fix for bubble tea. I ordered the medium Four Seasons Milk Tea with brown sugar tapioca because that was the only type of tapioca they had there, coming to a total of $6.22 after tax. Just an observation, the size of the cup seems to be the same as the cup from The Alley. The tea had a really good, strong flavour and was mildly milky too, so it didn't feel like drinking pure milk. Although, despite it being made with no ice, the drink was a bit more watery than I would have liked it. It seemed that all milk tea drinks there came with one free choice of toppings. The tapioca was chewy and well cooked and it was a light brown sugar flavour. Just like The Alley, I would go back to try more of their drinks. For the price and the quality of the drink, I would go back for sure.

ICHA Tea (235 Spadina Ave. Unit 4, Toronto, ON M5T 2E2) was next and immediately walking into the shop it had a great atmosphere and I absolutely love the design of the place. It was simple and very cozy. They also had an area at the back for dine-in, where you can order their desserts and drinks. This shop also offered traditional tea tasting during a specific time, which was very interesting. I ordered the Classic Milk Tea with tapioca which cost an extra $0.60. It was a very good black tea with hints of nutty flavour, probably brewed along with barley to enhance the tea flavour. The tea was also dripped on the spot, so freshly made. It was not overly milky and went down really nicely. The drink was surprisingly refreshing with the slight sweetness of the tapioca. The tapioca was cooked just right and didn't feel heavy. I would definitely go back because of the atmosphere and to try their Peach Oolong Tea and desserts.

Wait a minute...Who is Jack Antonoff??

Kennedy McCarthy
ARTS AND CULTURE

Credit: Jeff Kravitz

Taylor Swift's latest album *Midnights* shocked the world as the clock struck midnight on October 24. Taylor's 10th studio album is a dreamy, synth-driven pop album. It explores a celestial feeling laced with reverb, perfectly soundtracking anxiety-fueled late nights, alone, hazily staring at your bedroom ceiling. This album, however, was by no means written alone. Taylor has been very open about just how much of a collaborative project *Midnights* was. Though "Vigilante Shit" was completely written by Taylor Swift, the album has one other person's fingerprints all over it. Taylor's main collaborator for *Midnights* is longtime friend and co-writer, Jack Antonoff. Many Swifties opened up their *Midnights* CDs to see Taylor's name joined by Jack Antonoff's and thought to themselves, "Oh, cool, cool...that's nice," but deep down also thought, "Wait a minute...Who is Jack Antonoff??"

The New Jersey native is a producer and songwriter, while also being the frontman of his own indie rock/indie pop band, Bleachers. Jack Antonoff is somewhat of a deity when it comes to pop music. The 38-year-old hit maker has been on the global music scene since 2004 when his second band, Steel Train, released their first studio album *Twilight Tales From The Prairies*. The band later released *Trampoline* in 2007 and their third album, *Steel Train*, in 2010, along with a compilation album titled *Terrible Thrills Vol. 1. Terrible Thrills* was entirely made up of renditions of their songs featuring female artists, including Tegan and Sara, Scarlett Johansson, and Rachel Antonoff.

In 2008, Antonoff teamed up with Andrew Dost and Nate Ruess to form Fun (styled as 'fun.'), an indie rock band that would make their mark releasing hits like "We Are Young" and "Some Nights," a song that would eventually be covered on *Glee*. Though fun. went on a hiatus in 2015, this experience allowed Antonoff more exposure as a producer and songwriter. In 2013, Antonoff and Swift first teamed up to create the song "Sweeter Than Fiction," marking the start of their friendship. They have worked together ever since.

After fun., Antonoff announced his new project called Bleachers. Bleachers began as a solo project for Antonoff but would eventually turn into a full-blown band with Antonoff doing most of the studio work. Though Bleachers' songs cover a wide array of topics, the most common element in all of the songs is an unwavering stream of personal details. Antonoff doesn't shy away from shining a light on the darker aspects of life. Many songs on Bleachers' first two albums, *Strange Desire* and *Gone Now*, deal with Antonoff's relationship with depression and anxiety, especially in relation to how losing his younger sister at the age of 18 has shaped his experiences. Bleachers' newest album, *Take The Sadness Out Of Saturday Night*, is heavily based on a concept that Antonoff describes as "unearned hope" and wanting to hold on to the good in life but not understanding why he can't. One of the album's first singles,"Chinatown," features one of Antonoff's idols, Bruce Springsteen.

Credit: Kevin Mazur

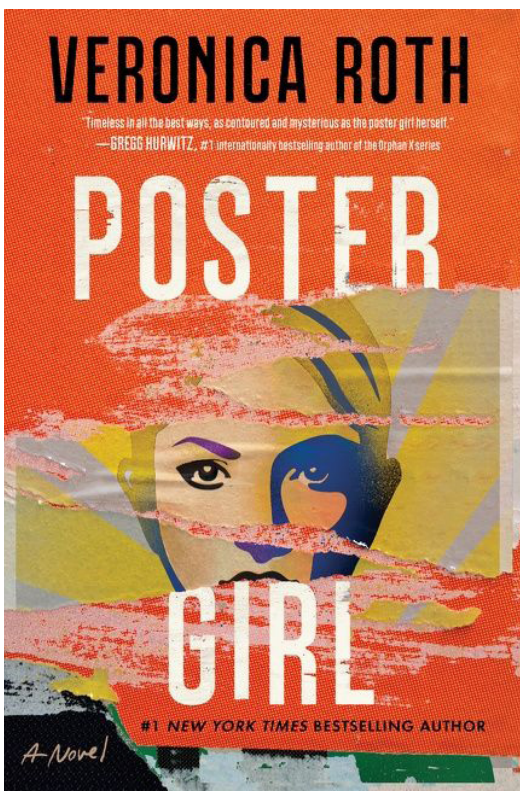
Along with making three Bleachers albums and countless tours, Antonoff has kept busy as a writer and producer on a spree with other pop artists. While Antonoff has produced songs for bands like The 1975, The Chicks, and REM, he proved his mastery in producing for solo artists. Along with Taylor Swift, Antonoff has produced for Lana Del Ray, Carly Rae Jepsen, St. Vincent. He also co-wrote and produced arguably one of the greatest pop albums of all time, Lorde's *Melodrama*. He was even tasked with creating the soundtrack for *Minions: Rise Of Gru*.

At the beginning of 2022, Antonoff boldly tweeted, "I am going to put out a Bleachers album this year." He has since recanted this statement, admitting defeat (possibly due to his involvement in *Midnights*). However, he did communicate with fans, via giant inflatable tomatoes at a concert, that live recordings and a Christmas song are on their way, and we are on track to receive the fourth Bleachers album in 2023.

Bookish Talks, Becca's Thoughts

Rebecca Sacco
ARTS AND CULTURE

Now that the semester is starting to come to an end and winter break is near, why not get comfy and open a new book? Here are my bookish thoughts on these 2022 book releases. I recommend each one of these, but check the genres to see if they will fit your reading tastes, or if you want to pick up something new!

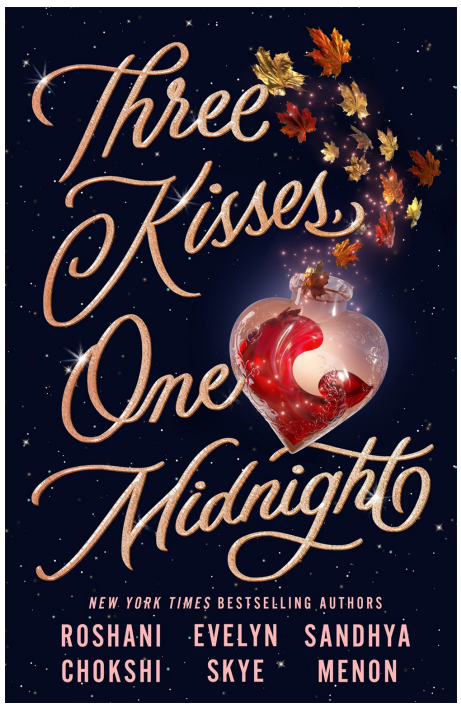

VERONICA ROTH
"Timeless in all the best ways, as contoured and mysterious as the poster girl herself."
—GREGG HURWITZ, #1 internationally bestselling author of the Orphan X series
POSTER GIRL
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
A Novel

Poster Girl by Veronica Roth (**adult, dystopian, mystery elements**)

Yes, you heard it here—Veronica Roth, the bestselling author of the Divergent series and *The Chosen Ones,* is back with a new novel.

This book examines a new world. One that is broken, and the main character Sonya is trying to find a missing girl the government has her enlisted to track. This book delves into the use of technology and what may happen if technology is used to track our every movement. This book starts off slow due to elaborate worldbuilding but picks up as the mystery evolves and Sonya's mission gets riskier. Sonya is an interesting and flawed character, and you see the internal struggles she may be facing due to her world changing.

Overall, this book brings you into an expansive world and has a romance that is cute but very much at the back end of the story. I love a good romance so if you also need a bit of romance elements while reading but also want to try a different genre this is for you. I enjoy Veronica Roth's writing and if you enjoyed any of her previous work you should give this one a try.
4/5 stars

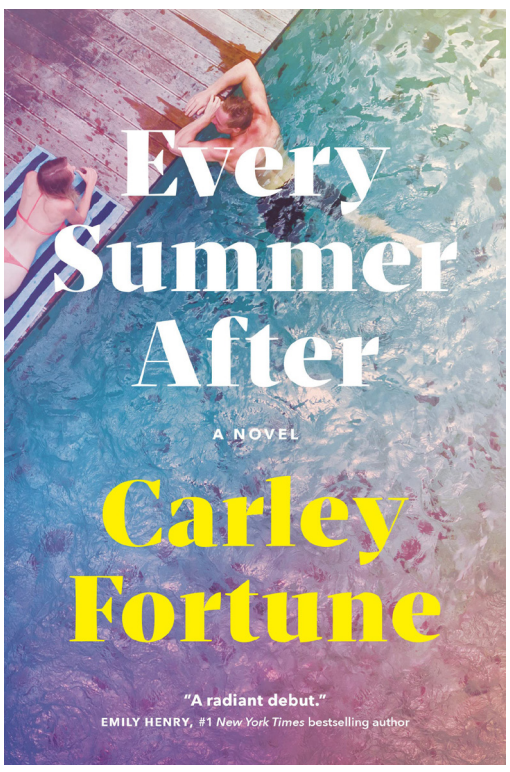


Three Kisses One Midnight by Evelyn Skye, Sandhya Menon & Roshani Chokshi (**young adult, magical realism**)

I absolutely love a young adult book that has a little magic in it! Yes, Halloween is over, but it's never too late to read Halloween inspired books. This one is set up in three parts as three authors wrote it. Onny, True and Ash, who are best friends, try to help Onny find love with the help of a magic potion. They soon realize love cannot just be conjured with magic but comes from within, and that feelings may already have been set in motion.

Each character's story lines up and is set on a single day which makes this a fun book to binge read. The stories each have a romance subplot which makes my romance-loving heart happy.

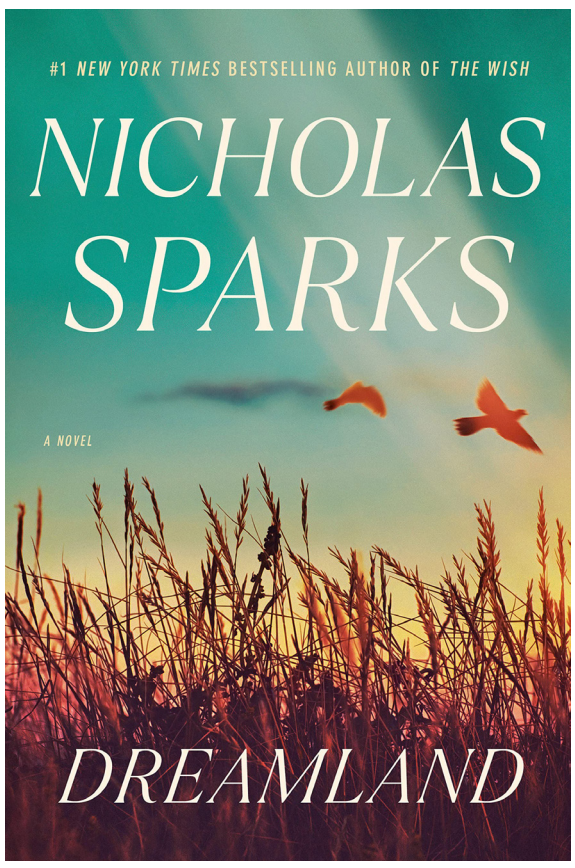
Overall, this story is lighthearted and a sweet read.
3.5/5 stars



Every Summer After by Carley Fortune (**adult romance, women's fiction**)

I love the friends-to-lovers romance trope and this one definitely sucked me in. Set in Ontario and from a Canadian author comes a book that is addictive to read. Percy, the main character, has avoided Barry's Bay for some years now and when she gets a devastating call is pulled back into town and is forced to face all the past mistakes that were made. Told in alternating timelines from past to present comes a heartwarming and heartbreaking story. Percy and Sam will give you hope for second chances and make you wish you had a summer romance.

This story made me sob and laugh out loud many times. I was hooked up until the end.
4.5/5 stars



Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks (**adult fiction, romance, contemporary**)

Nicholas Sparks is back to make me cry and break my heart. A story told over a week with different points of view, Nicholas Sparks tugs at my heartstrings once again.

This novel had many pop culture references and is set in the present day. Colby and Morgan connect over their joint love for music and ultimately fall in love. Beverly has just ran away from an abusive husband with her child. Heavy topics are discussed throughout this story.

This book felt slow in the beginning, but immediately picks up during the halfway point. The two points of view are drastically different but both showcase the love one may have for someone.
4/5 stars

Hope you enjoy these reads if you pick them up! Try to look into more 2022 book releases, as this year had some amazing titles and covers.

SAM'S SHOWTIME SCHEDULE

Sam Guevara
ARTS AND CULTURE

There is no better way of celebrating this time of the year than by being a cinephile. The shorter days along with longer nights in the city call for celebrating festive holidays, sipping on warm drinks, as well as walking in cold crunchy snow —and they also call for a showtime special. 'Tis the season of comfort and of motion pictures to be **screened while content of comfort is craved.**

Throughout this list, find a what-to-watch guide at this time of year with features that are set in this time of year alongside review (or moreso rambles) that mix praise, criticism, and personal commentary. Without further ado; a film bro (woman), a movie critic (avid Letterboxd user), and a cinema student (undergraduate with a minor) presents: *Wintertime Watches*. **Spend those snowy off-screen memories watching these snowy on-screen moments.**

1. *SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD* (2010) Dir. Edgar Wright

"This sucks! I'm gonna go pee due to boredom."

This postmodern text is a tribute to the graphic novel series *Scott Pilgrim* by Bryan Lee O'Malley, to 'the mysterious land... of Toronto, Canada', and most importantly to the one and only Michael Cera. The opening sequence introduces the Universal logo in the form of an 8-bit graphic with sound effects, then segues into the credits and title full of loud visuals and by extension loud volume. A combination of comic book, video game, and motion picture intertwine to present the main characters, such as an unemployed bassist and a league of evil exes such as a devoted vegan. Other compelling characters range from an evil Brie Larson to a recurring Aubrey Plaza or a skating Chris Evans. The 2010 creation is not free from flaws such as its overlooked racism or a tired manic pixie dream girl trope, but the creation does a good job at what it tries to be — a cult classic transmedia aesthetic.

2. *LITTLE WOMEN* (2019) Dir. Greta Gerwig

"Talent isn't genius and no amount of energy can make it so. I want to be great or nothing."

View *Little Women* to follow along the lives of the four March sisters — Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy — and join in on their journeys from childhood to womanhood in a charming adaptation of the critically acclaimed tale. If you choose to not view the Academy Awards nominated flick and choose to find a synopsis instead, know that I am always ready to womansplain this stunning Louisa May Alcott story then recite its significant Greta Gerwig screenplay. Due to its impactful lines with a prime example being "I care more to be loved. I want to be loved [...] Women, they have minds, and they have souls [...] I'm so sick of people saying that love is just all a woman is fit for - but I'm so lonely!"; its passionate cast including Timothée Chalamet and Meryl Streep; or its overall approach engaging in talent whether it be the score or costumes, Little Women is bound to have immense impact on its audience.

3. *INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS* (2013) Dir. Coen Brothers

"I'm tired. I thought I just needed a night's sleep, but it's more than that."

After much consideration as an indecisive cinephile, I identify my favourite film since my first screening of it earlier last year to be *Inside Llewyn Davis*. I was planning to gatekeep this arguably underrated tragicomedy, but considering I got a tattoo in reference to it and bought a guitar to play folk with inspiration from it, I must recommend the black comedy musical drama that changed my life and that features the incredible Oscar Isaac. The plot beautifully conveys, the actors talentedly portray, and the story dramatically or musically communicates an incredible narrative of a bad person that goes through a bad life. The main character is not a great person who relies on friends and strangers throughout his challenges, and this leads to a theme that creative success is constant struggle. Inevitably, spectators will carry an empty heart and wry smile, just like the protagonist. Breathtaking shots with mesmerising colours coexist to capture coldness making me understand the main message — to find purpose in life rather than perfection — through a main character making me feel understood — a distant and egotistic artist. Oh, and did I mention Oscar Isaac?

4. *ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND* (2004)
Dir. Michel Gondryv

"I'll get bored with you and feel trapped, because that's what happens with me."

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a romance, sci-fi, comedy, and drama — it is unforgettable. After a painful relationship, Clementine undergoes a permanent procedure to erase memories of Joel, who then medically erases memories of the couple forever too. Psychological meets magical while fantasy meets reality in this poetic, yet strange fiction.

5. *SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE* (2018)
Dir. Peter Ramsey, Bob Persichetti, Rodney Rothman

"It's a leap of faith. That's all it is."

Do you have a comfort film that you can watch on repeat, but never get tired of? For me, ***Into the Spider-Verse***, the first film with an Afro-Latino superhero, is the epitome of a comfort film. I have watched this brilliant blend of 2D and 3D animation styles a concerning amount of times (no I will not admit how many (yes it is more than 10)). However, I am enthralled by the computer-animated superhero film each time I see it, as if it is the first time I come across it. Striking cartoon and comic book textures combine with a captivating soundtrack and screenplay achieving the greatest fan-favourite Spider-Man movie and announcing the greatest fan-favourite Spider-Man, Miles Morales (it is me, I am the fan).

6. *THE GREEN KNIGHT* (2021) Dir. David Lowery

"I fear I am not meant for greatness."

In this visionary A24 adaptation of a timeless Arthurian legend poem, Dev Patel plays Sir Gawain, who encounters an epic medieval fantasy adventure. Garwain goes on a quest to seek the Green Knight and enters a deeper journey beyond ghosts and giants. There arises a journey of multiple interpretations: reflection on the war between civilization and nature; consideration of worth in the eyes of family; examination of honour and the honesty that comes with it. The sole thought I was sure of after my Cineplex journey watching *The Green Knight* was leaving the theatre and feeling as if the film was a fever dream... in a good way.

Honourable mentions: *The Shining*, *Snowpiercer*, *Winter in the Blood*, *Home Alone*, *The Polar Express*, *Iron Man 3*

Fool's Gold: Abridged

Rosa T. Mancuso
CREATIVE

1: Welcome, traveller! In this world, your choices matter. Follow the directions beside each prompt to find the next part of your story. This, for example, is section 1. When prompted by the phrase "Roll initiative!", you may use a six-sided die or a random number generator to leave each challenge to the fates.

Now, tell me: what kind of adventurer are you?

- A burly fighter [go to 4]
- A musical bard [go to 13]

2: Unfortunately, the fury of the furry creature is too much for you. The last thing you see is a bundle of sharp teeth glinting in the light of the dying fire.
AN UNBEARABLE DEATH. TRY AGAIN?

3: You make your way towards the city centre. Your guild is up ahead, settling around the fountain in the square.

You unstrap your banjo from your rucksack. You look towards your guild, each of whom is pulling out their tools of the trade: a flute, a frame drum, and tin cans filled with dried beans. It's showtime!

After your first song, a thin man with a curly moustache pushes his way through the cheering crowd.

"Splendid, splendid, my dears. I would be honoured if you might join my lord's caravan for the evening. He's looking for something to occupy his mind as we traverse the mountain pass — and he pays well."

You cannot help but agree. You join the caravan, which is decked out with riches beyond your wildest imaginings. They even have a baby dragon!

Cautiously, you and your guild traverse the mountainside, playing songs of yore, until you hear a shrill cry.

An ambush! A guild of bandits is attacking you!

- Distract with insults [go to 5]
- Distract with music [go to 8]

4: A fighter! Of course.

On a splendid afternoon, you and your guild of muscular men stomp into the local tavern after a morning of hunting. Sadly, your mission was unsuccessful; your stomach rumbles and your coin sack feels light at your hip.

The tavern is empty, save for the bartender and a raggedy-looking man at a table in the corner. The raggedy man pipes up:

"Seems like y'all could use a silver or two; take this. A gift." He hands you some yellow parchment with a simply sketched map. Desperate for money, you and your guild decide to follow it.

After walking for quite some time, you stumble upon a cave.

- Rest in the cave [go to 14]
- Keep following the map [go to 10]

5: You dodge the nearest bandit's attack, then point at them ferociously, expertly picking apart their mother's honour with your words. The bandit scowls and rushes you, only to be thrown off the face of the mountain by one of your companions. Their dying screams fade into the wind. How's that for a performance?

After each of the bandits has fallen, you take up your post at the rear of the gilded caravan and march onwards, playing a victorious tune.

A RAVISHING DISPLAY! BUT THE SHOW MUST GO ON. ENCORE?

6: You call your brothers-in-arms to encircle the bandits, who are swiftly dispatched. You all let free a celebratory howl, take a swig of brown liquor from a shared vessel, and continue up the mountain path.

At the summit sits a small cobblestone fountain, in which there are many gold coins.

- Take some coins [go to 12]
- Leave it be [go to 17]

7: You whip around to face the woman, stomping your foot on the ground. The loud *THUMP* bounces between the walls, and sparks of magical remnant fly from your boots; the cobblestone beneath your feet seems to ripple. The woman shrieks and runs the other way. You sigh in relief. You are free to join your comrades again. [Go to 3]

8: As you wield your banjo in the face of an oncoming bandit, they pounce and strike the instrument in two! Your weapon of choice, or what remains of it, falls off the side of the mountain, and you are left defenceless as the bandit twists a dagger into your belly.

THAT'S SHOWBIZ. TRY AGAIN?

9: Before you have a chance to retaliate, you feel a sleepiness growing. Everything fades before you.

You awake with a start, surrounded by stalagmites barely made out in the dim light. You feel groggy. How long have you been out?

Credit: Riho Kroll

You feel a lot...heavier than you remember. And your teeth feel a lot bigger too. And something about your skin feels soft. So soft...

Time for a nap.

AN UNBEARABLE VICTORY. TRY AGAIN?

10: You continue following the map, which eventually leads you to a narrow path along the edge of a steep mountain. You feel dizzy as you look down at the tiny trees and rocks below. Cautiously, you and your guild traverse the mountainside until you hear a shrill cry. An ambush! A guild of bandits is attacking you!

- Retaliate solo [go to 15]
- Work with your guild [go to 6]

11: You whip out your sword — a clean slice to the throat! The bear does not see it coming. In fact, it looks almost peaceful as it falls to the ground.

You and your guild decide that it is too dangerous to remain here.

- [Go to 10]

12: You and your men fish out coins, amassing an impressive stack. You graciously leave some gold behind for whoever might come along next. All in a day's work!

A FLAWLESS VICTORY! TRY AGAIN?

13: A bard! Of course.

On a splendid afternoon, you and your guild of tumultuous troubadours are headed toward the town square to busk. Your recent performances have not been successful; your stomach rumbles and your coin sack feels light at your hip.

Out of the corner of your eye, down an alleyway, you spot a shadowy figure watching you. She beckons.

- Approach the figure [go to 16]
- Continue on with your guild [go to 3]

14: You set up camp in the cave and make a small fire. As you and your guild begin to drift off for a quick nap, you are hit with a strong scent: wet rags and red anger.

You jump from where you lie and turn around to look deeper into the cave, only to find yourself nose-to-nose with a bear! [Roll initiative!]

- 1-3 [go to 2]
- 4-6 [go to 11]

15: As you move towards the nearest bandit and brandish your sword, another bandit slices at your knees. They buckle, and you find yourself tumbling off the face of the mountain. Not exactly the most dignified way for a warrior to go.

DEATH BY GRAVITY. TRY AGAIN?

16: The figure's energy is irresistible; you feel a bit sleepy. You cannot help but investigate further.

You follow her deeper into the alleyway. After a while, she turns to face you. "I have an irresistible opportunity for a lad like thee. Too good to refuse, yes, *yes*." She leans in closer. She smells of lilac and gooseberries.

"I seek a business partner. For a small fee, I would give thee a variety of commodities that thou may sell for thine own profit. Thou could even, dare I say, become thine own king by recruiting others: double, no, *quadruple* thine profits! Ha, ha!"

Despite the temptations of the shadowy woman, you politely decline her offer and turn back towards the main street.

"WAIT! Where art thou going?!"

She is huffing and puffing behind you. You are not going to get away that easily! [Roll initiative!]

- 1-3 [go to 9]
- 4-6 [go to 7]

17: Let me get this straight: you came all the way up here, fought through all of that, just to refuse a reward? Fine. More for me.

YOU WIN...I GUESS? TRY AGAIN?

YOUR ARTICLE could be on THIS PAGE!

Write for the *Herald* !

Experiencing Emotional

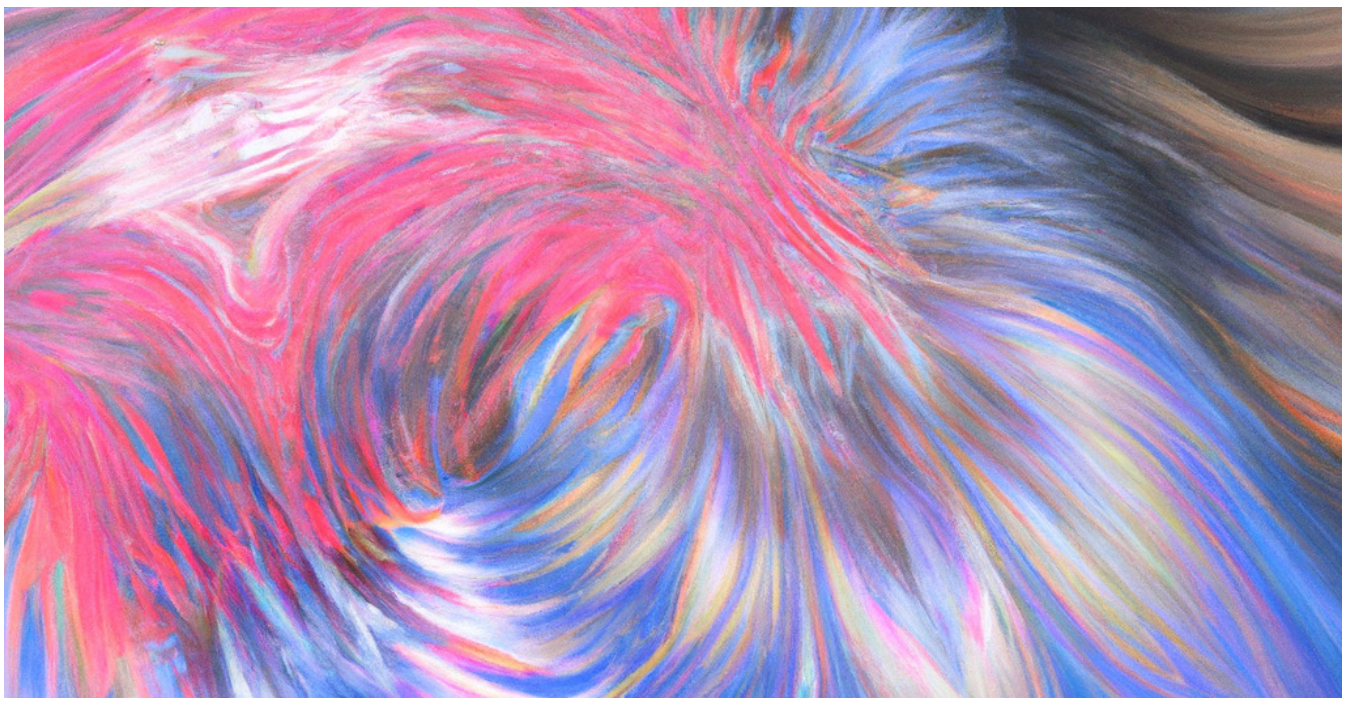
Ben Adar
CREATIVE

It Smells of Pine Needles and Onions.
I bury my head deep into my covers, taking a long deep breath, inhaling the scent
of a day worthlessly spent.

Pressure Builds.
Bubbles to the crown.
Squeezing through your eyes.
Foaming from the ears, going down.
Leaching the veins, escaping to the brain.
A feeling strongly overtakes, becoming too much.
Signals make their way from your spine to your limbs.
Conversations become so much louder, deep in your head.
Doubt becomes pain becomes anger becomes frustration becomes passion.
Fires start to ignite, signalling hands to type, feet to shake, blood to warm, pits to sweat.
Fingers rumble, ripple, rupture, and burst the desk. Shredding it down to the bitter ends.
Thoughts are gone from the mind, emptied to the page.
Bones still shake with the excitement to move,
even though nothing is left to take.
Ends made harder by,
eager breaths
void of air.

When the Air Sounds Right
Freed into space, my feet move awkwardly, directed by squiggly air.
My mind leaves my body to go hang out with the wubs and the dubs.
Drums and basses flock out in droves, shaking the fabric of space.
Ripping a hole to the universe governed by 160-180 beats per minute.
Blended as a whole, the dance floor merges into one, mixing with gravity.
Turning sweat to oceans, limbs to mountains, skin to sky, flesh to soil, mind to cloud, and our souls to light.

In The Heart of a Melting Room
I confide in you. Warm air wraps hold of me, bringing with it a lonely calm.
I battle the waves of steam, letting them in my lungs slowly.
Inhaling for four, exhaling for eight.
Inside of me, only a reflection of the outside of me.
Interwoven and gently unfolden.
Interlocked, interconnected and inseparable.
I melt into the fabric of the room, letting the wood merge into my arms and legs.
Inhales speed up to two, exhales match, both growing stronger every turn.
Increasing oxygen in the blood, feeling bubbles popping, rushing up.
Inhales drop. Lungs hold on full. Chest stays risen at the top.
Inhales. Pushing every last drop of feeling through, pours. Heat dissipates.
I let my body fall through the floor, exhaling as the vision falls even more.
Exhaling, releasing it all. In every way and every end. Holding on as the stomach rests.
Exhaling, forcing lungs to compress. Disappearing and holding out as the soul lets rest



Going Out

Ripples, ruptures, bursts.
My stomach churns.
Stressors trigger attacks.
Nothing exciting.
Really nothing new.
Just nauseated.
Overwhelmed.
Frustrated.
And scared.
Scared.
Of what is unknown.
But it creeps in, pores.
A feeling.
My guts.
All I am.
Afraid to be useless.
Uselessly afraid.
Fraid and fried, fucked up with doubt.

Lust Smells of Ripe Peaches & Love Smells of Sunlight.

The body burns reddish-yellow.
With pleasure and joy.

The head borrows deep into pits.
With desire and need.

The hands squeeze tight.
With wanting and salvation.

The arms grab hold.
With inclusion and comfort.

The nose breathes in.
Smelling sweet lust with sweat.

&

The body cools to pinkish-blue.
With happiness and calm.

The head borrows deep in their hair.
With hope and internity.

The hands squeeze theirs.
With comfort and place.

The arms grab hold.
With mindfulness and ease.

The nose breathes in.
Smelling bitter love with honey.

A Christmas like One Other

Rishibh Prakash
CREATIVE

Credit: US National Archives

It was Christmas. It was wartime. The soldiers were far from home, defending a patch of land that wasn't quite theirs in the name of values they didn't quite hold. At first perhaps they fought for patriotism or justice, but those are often the first things to die in a war.

But this was Christmas. And even during wartime, Christmas is Christmas. Regardless of your faith, there is a certain magic to the day. It is hard to not think about your family and your home. It is hard not to realise that your enemy also has a family and a home. And perhaps for the first time since this all began, you feel a kinship for your enemy, caught up like you in the gears of history. But before I continue, I think I should pause here—because I suspect some of you might be thinking of a different Christmas during a different war.

The Christmas Truce of 1914 is famous. An unofficial and unplanned ceasefire all along the Western Front simply because it was Christmas. And Christmas is Christmas. There are reports of football matches, carol singing and even minor gift giving amongst the warring soldiers. It is an incident that would never repeat for the remainder of the war, at least not in its full scale.

But that is not the Christmas I want to talk about. The Christmas I am thinking of took place in the Second World War. The event is similar but much less famous, for good reason. It involves only a handful of people and is effectively a footnote in one book. The setting is Buna, a small village in Papua New Guinea. A place of stifling heat, dense jungle and unrelenting rain. On the Christmas of 1942, the American troops were given meatloaf and peaches and candy to feast on (during wartime, that is what feasts entail). Meanwhile, the Japanese troops defending the island were on their last supplies. They were also located quite close to the Americans. So close in fact, that they could smell the Americans' feast. And so we find an account of one Japanese soldier who was driven mad by the smells. So mad, in fact, that he stripped down to his underwear and wandered over to the Americans, pretending to be drunk. He would come back a few hours later carrying food for his comrades.

That is it. That is the whole story, at least as far as I know. I do not know what became of this unnamed soldier. I do not know whether he survived the war. I do not know whether he was able to share this story with his family. I do not know whether he had a family.

This is one of the bitter pills we must swallow when studying history: there will always remain things we can never know. Very few things are recorded and even fewer records survive the test of time. Luckily, history is not a lost cause. The essence of history is not the establishment of past facts; the essence of history is learning about ourselves by studying the past. And so I wonder what you will take from this story, my dear reader. Maybe, like me, you will see the parallels to the Christmas Truce, even if this tale is not quite as grand. Maybe you will find yourself celebrating human kindness, which appears even in the worst of circumstances. Maybe you will wonder why we keep putting people in the worst of circumstances. Maybe you rejoice that there are always days when people can put aside their differences and celebrate collectively. Maybe you mourn that we need a special day to do this.

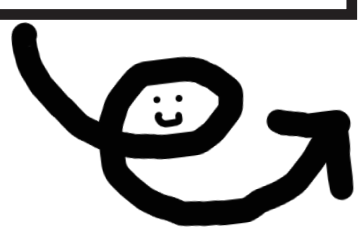
I am no historian. I do not know what we should learn from this either. The only lesson I can see is the simplest one: Christmas is Christmas. So Merry Christmas dear reader, and a Happy New Year.

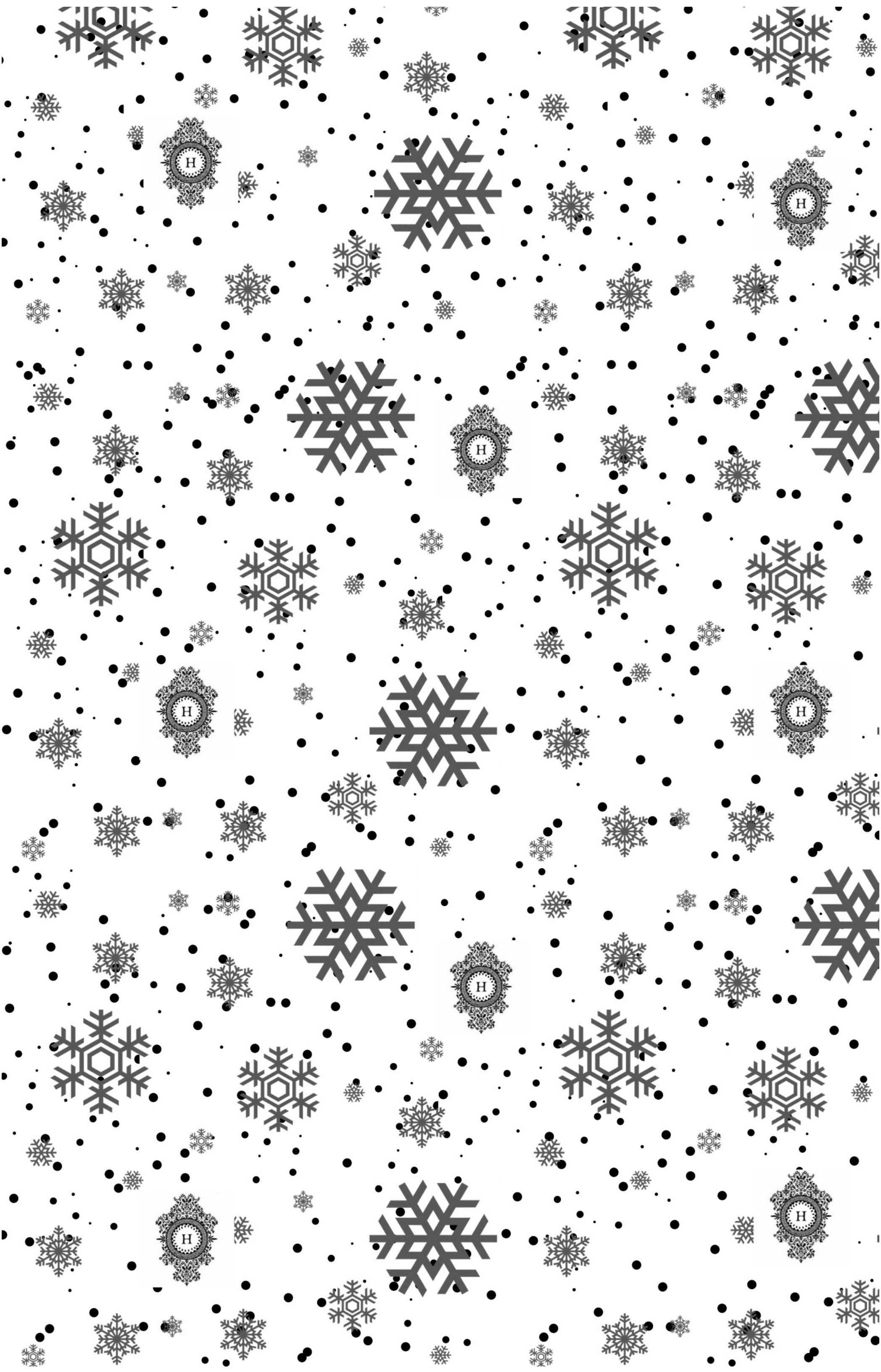
Happy Holidays from the Herald!

Need something to wrap a gift in? We've got you covered. (Literally!)

Tear off the next page to use as some wrapping paper. Consider it a gift from all of us on the masthead :)

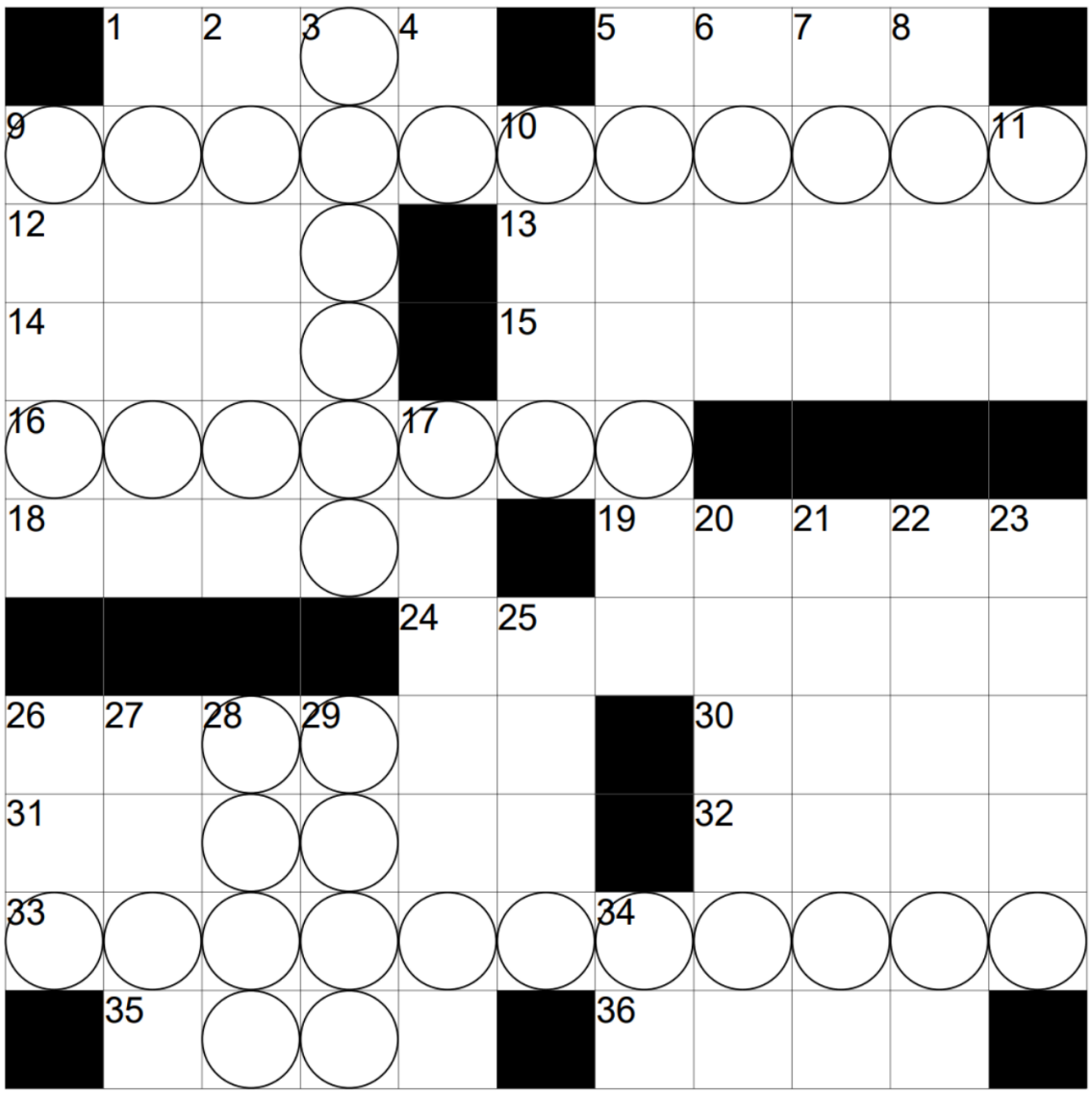
(Oh and though we know it is very pretty, please limit yourself to 2 copies at most. Everyone deserves to have a Herald!)




H
H
H
H
H
H

PALINDROMES

A Crossword By Rick Lu



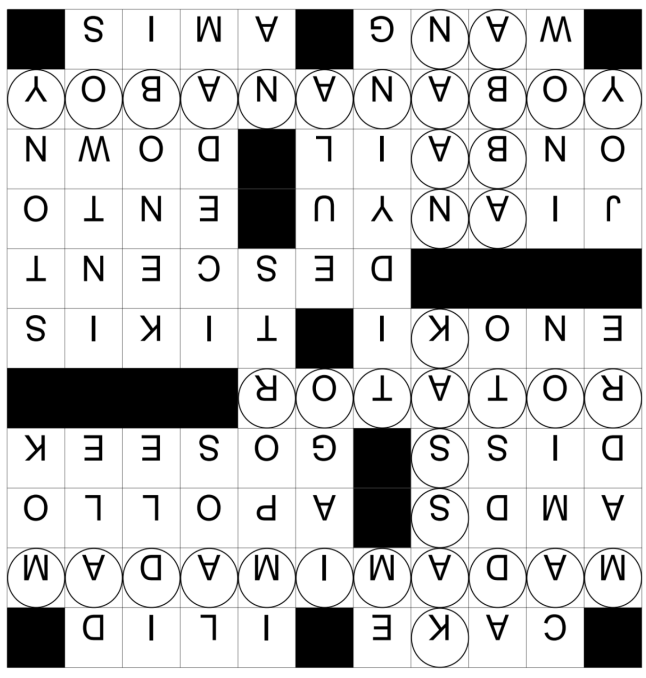
CLUES (ACROSS)

1. Deceptive food
5. If Apple made a cover for your vision?
9. The first sentence Eve heard?
12. CPUs that are not Intels
13. Lunar space program
14. Type of track
15. Hide and ___
16. Spinner
18. Japanese mushroom
19. Polynesian carvings
24. Downward path
26. Jason Mendoza's alias
30. ___mology is the study of insects
31. Awaiting trial, maybe
32. Type of clue the last Herald's crossword was missing
33. Phrase to get the attention of the tropical fruit salesman?
35. Fashion designer Vera
36. Friends in France

CLUES (DOWN)

1. "Truck" according to a Spaniard or Frenchman
2. Piles on
3. Hungarian writer and painter
4. Radiation carried by light, for short
5. Brings in
6. Vietnam neighbor
7. Staying still
8. Kingdom of Men founded in "The Hobbit"
9. Spanish mother
10. Othello villain
11. Might be confused for a noun if preceded by "run a"
17. Making neat
20. Frozen roof gutter blockage
21. Obi-Wan
22. Paired up
23. Made of small rocks
25. Contract between software developer and software purchaser (abbr.)
26. Pairs with pride
27. "___ pronounce you..."
28. 70's Swedish band
29. Asian bread
34. Half of salt

ANSWERS



FOLLOW US!

— Innis College's Student Run Newspaper, since 1965

@theinnisherald

www.theinnisherald.com

Also check out the *Innis Herald* Podcast!